

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT  
CITY COUNCIL  
PUBLIC SPEAKING SESSION  
MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2015  
6:30 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President McCarthy called the Public Speaking Session to order at 6:43 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

City Clerk Hudson called the roll.

The following members were present:

130<sup>th</sup> District: Susan Brannelly, Enrique Torres  
131<sup>st</sup> District: Jack O. Banta  
132<sup>nd</sup> District: Robert Halstead, Patricia Swain  
133<sup>rd</sup> District: Howard Austin, Thomas McCarthy  
134<sup>th</sup> District: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Michelle Lyons  
135<sup>th</sup> District: Rev. McBride-Lee, Richard Salter  
136<sup>th</sup> District: Josè Casco  
137<sup>th</sup> District: Lydia Martinez  
138<sup>th</sup> District: Melanie Jackson, Michael Marella  
139<sup>th</sup> District: Eneida Martinez, James Holloway

A quorum was present.

**THE FOLLOWING NAMED PERSON HAS REQUESTED PERMISSION TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL ON MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2015 AT 6:30 P.M., IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, CITY HALL, 45 LYON TERRACE, BRIDGEPORT, CT.**

**NAME**

**SUBJECT**

**Jamie Toole**  
500 Main Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06604

Bridgeport Bluefish, "Heroes for Heroes"  
Legends Game to support Homes for the  
Brave and working relationship with City.

Mr. Toole came forward to speak about the Bridgeport Bluefish. He said that he felt that this would be a renaissance year for the Bluefish and spoke about the number of free tickets on Sunday night and also said that the Bridgeport residents could get tickets at half price on Sunday night. There will also be an All-Star game to benefit the Homes for the Brave and he encouraged everyone to come to the ball field.

**John Marshall Lee**  
30 Beacon Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06605

City fiscal issues.

Mr. Lee came forward and made the following Statement:

President of the Council McCarthy, members of the City Council and members of the public, the City Council is in the process of reviewing the Capital and Operating Budgets for the year 2015-2016 at this time. We have been under the impression that the City operating budget is showing annual surpluses averaging \$150,000 annually during the Finch years. However, the annual Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) from recent years show City revenues from all sources exceeding expenses, indicating deficit financing **\$120 Million in the past five years**.

Year	Total Revenues	Total Expenses	Variance
2014	\$702,150,040	\$728,857,755	-26,707,715
2013	700,462,907	726,054,078	-25,591,171
2012	642,373,056	682,128,749	-39,755,693
2011	637,801,308	656,460,420	-18,659,112
2010	630,348,712	641,912,046	-11,563,334

Neither Mayor nor City Council holds a regular annual meeting to review material from that report and allow taxpayers to raise questions and hear answers in public on the record. Where is the money for spending coming from? What assets are being built? Why is the City Council not part of the oversight and understanding of this part of City fiscal governance?

Much of City spending in recent years is part of school construction. Earlier this evening I asked Council member James Holloway, who is also chair of the School Building Committee how he communicates with other Council members as over half a billion of State and local funds are spent. He indicated that he asked Construction Management Services to provide regular minutes and reports to the Council members. A question later asked of two Council members indicates that these reports are not being received. Does anyone see a disconnect with a powerful City Commission acting but the legislative body is not receiving information? Why doesn't the Mayor list this important group on the Departmental website? Why are their meetings not announced on the City calendar? Where are the minutes stored?

Where are balance sheet items reported to the Budget and Appropriations Committee other than by the CAFR or a single page Capital budget each year? Where are the bonding reports showing application of funds against projects that were approved by City Council? Time will tell.

**Howard Gardner**  
25 Cartright Street, Unit 8G  
Bridgeport, CT 06604

City Budget and Public Safety.

Council President McCarthy called for Mr. Gardner. A member of the audience said that Mr. Gardner was upstairs in the Board of Education meeting.

**Kenneth Hopkins**  
New England Ballet Co.  
130 Elm Street  
Bridgeport, CT 06604

NEBC move into Downtown Bridgeport.

Mr. Kenneth Hopkins came forward to speak about the New England Ballet Company (NEBC), at 277 Imperial Avenue and now in 130 Elm Street where they share the building with another group. Mr. Hopkins also spoke about the various programs the NEBC has been able to run in the City. He said that the NEBC was pleased to be located in downtown Bridgeport. He said that there has been a great deal of growth in the downtown area and it was very exciting.

Council Member McCarthy then read the first name off the sign up sheet.

**Mr. Irineu Portella**  
Milne Street  
Bridgeport, CT

Milne Street

Mr. Irineu Portella came forward to speak about their neighborhood and to Thank the Bridgeport Police Department for their support in their neighborhood. The president of the NRZ also came forward to thank the City for their help in cleaning up the Milne

**Mr. Doug Holcomb**  
Greater Bridgeport Transit  
One Cross Street,  
Bridgeport, CT 06610

Doug Holcomb the general manager of the Greater Bridgeport Transit (GBT) came forward to speak about a number of transportation issues around the City. He said that the City has been safer and cleaner now.

Council President McCarthy then called Mr. Gardner's name again. Mr. Gardner came forward and said that he would yield his spot to the next speaker.

**Ms. Karen Jackson**  
Bridgeport, CT

Ms. Karen Jackson came forward to speak about education and the educational shortfall of 5 million dollars. She mentioned the in-kind services of the crossing guards and garbage removal that the City provides to the BOE. She said that she was concerned about this and would like to know how this would be handled.

City of Bridgeport  
City Council  
Regular Meeting  
April 20, 2015

**ADJOURNMENT**

Council President McCarthy adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services

**CITY OF BRIDGEPORT**  
**CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2015**

**7:00 PM**

**City Council Chambers, City Hall - 45 Lyon Terrace**

**Bridgeport, Connecticut**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President McCarthy called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. He said that the Mayor had been delayed and would be arriving shortly.

**PRAYER**

Council President McCarthy then requested Council Member McBride-Lee to lead those present in prayer.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Council President McCarthy then requested former Public Facilities Director George Garcia to lead those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

City Clerk Hudson called the roll.

The following members were present:

130<sup>th</sup> District: Susan Brannelly, Enrique Torres  
131<sup>st</sup> District: Jack O. Banta  
132<sup>nd</sup> District: Robert Halstead, Patricia Swain  
133<sup>rd</sup> District: Howard Austin, Thomas McCarthy  
134<sup>th</sup> District: AmyMarie Vizzo-Paniccia, Michelle Lyons  
135<sup>th</sup> District: Rev. Mary McBride-Lee, Richard Salter  
136<sup>th</sup> District: José Casco  
137<sup>th</sup> District: Lydia Martinez  
138<sup>th</sup> District: Michael Marella, Melanie Jackson  
139<sup>th</sup> District: Eneida Martinez, James Holloway

A quorum was present. Council President McCarthy stated that Council Member Feliciano was out of town and Council Member Taylor-Moye was recovering from surgery.

**City Council Citation: Recognizing the University of Bridgeport Women's Gymnastics Team for an excellent season and winning second place in Team Finals of the 2015 USA Gymnastics Women's Collegiate National Championship Meet.**

Council President McCarthy along with numerous members of the City Council then presented the Bridgeport Women's Gymnastics Team with a City Council Citation in recognition of their second place in the National finals.

One of the coaches came forward and thanked everyone for their acknowledgment.

**Mayoral Proclamation: In Recognition of Police Captain Douglas Stolze for his work with the Milne Street Association in reducing crime and violence.**

**City Council Citation: In Recognition of Police Captain Douglas Stolze for his work with the Milne Street Association in reducing crime and violence.**

Council President McCarthy said that Council Member Banta had called him about the work that Police Captain Stolze has done with the Milne Street Association to reduce the crime and violence around Milne Street. Council Member Banta said that he was please that Captain Stolze had worked with the Milne Street Association. Council Member Eneida Martinez said that Captain Stolze had great compassion in working with the homeless community. Council Member Lyons said that she was impressed with Captain Stolze's honesty and truthfulness.

Council President McCarthy then presented Captain Stolze with a Mayoral Proclamation and a City Council Proclamation in acknowledgement of his efforts.

Captain Stolze thanked everyone. He said that he has been familiar with The Hollow since he was a patrolman. He said that people had no idea how much this type of award means to the police officers.

**33-14 Public Hearing re: Disposition of certain City-Owned Properties by Auction, by Sale to Abutter or by Sale to Community Based Housing Development Corporations**

Council President McCarthy asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak in favor of the item. No one came forward. He repeated the question two more times. There was no response.

Council President McCarthy asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak in opposition to this item.

Mr. Charles Covello, Gardner Street, came forward and said that he had just became aware of the public hearing on one of the addresses. He said that there were some residents that wanted to have the item tabled. The City can take a property and sell it to someone without the neighbors knowing what was about to happen. He said that the administration needs to let the residents know about these issues.

Council President McCarthy asked if there was anyone else present who wished to speak in opposition to this item. No one else came forward. He repeated the question. Hearing none, Council President McCarthy then closed the hearing on Agenda Item 33-14.

**34-14 Public Hearing re: Disposition of City-Owned Property Located at 157 William Street.**

Council President McCarthy asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak in favor of the item. No one came forward. He repeated the question two more times. There was no response.

Council President McCarthy asked if there was anyone present who wished to speak in opposition to this item. No one else came forward. He repeated the question two more times. Hearing none, Council President McCarthy then closed the hearing on Agenda Item 34-14.

**MINUTES FOR APPROVAL:**

**Approval of City Council Minutes: March 2, 2015.**

- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER AUSTIN MOVED THE MINUTES OF MARCH 2, 2015.**
- \*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**
- \*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 2, 2015 AS SUBMITTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**COMMUNICATIONS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING AGENDA ITEMS TO BE REFERRED TO COMMITTEES:**

**72-14 COMMUNICATION FROM LABOR RELATIONS AND BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION RE: PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH POLICE UNION AFSCME LOCAL 1159 CONCERNING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR THEIR MEMBERSHIP, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.**

**73-14 COMMUNICATION FROM LABOR RELATIONS AND BENEFITS ADMINISTRATION RE: PROPOSED TENTATIVE AGREEMENT WITH NAGE, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, LOCAL RI-200 CONCERNING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR THEIR MEMBERSHIP, REFERRED TO CONTRACTS COMMITTEE.**

**74-14 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: REAPPOINTMENT OF REV. SIMON CASTILLO (D) TO THE POLICE COMMISSION, REFERRED TO PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE.**

**75-14 COMMUNICATION FROM MAYOR RE: APPOINTMENT OF ANA NILSA DIAZ (D) TO THE FOOD POLICY COUNCIL, REFERRED TO MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS COMMITTEE.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER VIZZO-PANICCIA SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MATTERS TO BE ACTED UPON (CONSENT CALENDAR):**

Council President McCarthy asked if there was any Council Member who would like to remove an item from the Consent Calendar. When there was no response, he asked a second time. Hearing no response, the sixteen items on the Consent Calendar were put forward for consideration.

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARELLA MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS AS THE CONSENT CALENDAR:**

**\*51-14 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: STATE OF CONNECTICUT OFFICE OF POLICY AND MANAGEMENT JUSTICE ASSISTANCE FORMULA (JAG) VIOLENT CRIME PREVENTION GRANT PROGRAM (#15216).**

**\*63-14 PUBLIC SAFETY AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT RE: APPOINTMENT OF MATTHEW CUMINOTTO, JR. (D) TO THE BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSION.**

**\*43-14 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH OLIN PARTNERSHIP, LTD., FOR BEARDSLEY PARK MASTER PLANNING SERVICES.**

**\*47-14 CONTRACTS COMMITTEE REPORT RE: ASSIGNMENT OF TAX LIENS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2014.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Council Member Eneida Martinez requested a point of personal privilege. She then requested a moment of silence in memory of Minnie Lincoln and Marcus Jackson. Council Member Martinez thanked everyone for their support of the two families involved in the tragedy.

Council President McCarthy then said that Mr. Manuel Ribas, a former City of Bridgeport employee had passed away.

Council Member Lydia Martinez then requested that the moment of silence also include Mr. Pedro Torres, an elderly Bridgeport resident who had recently passed away.

The Council Members and all those present then observed a moment of silence for these four recently deceased residents.

Council Member Vizzo-Paniccia said that on Saturday, April 25th, there would be an event at the Holiday Inn from 12- 4 p.m. Park City Pride would be performing at 2 p.m.

Council President McCarthy then thanked Representative Jim Himes for his visit earlier in the day.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER LYONS MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**\*\* COUNCIL MEMBER MARTINEZ SECONDED.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO ADJOURN PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services